



American Society of Crime Lab Directors

"THE CRIME LAB MINUTE" NEWSLETTER

Colleagues,

This week, I'd like to make you aware of two important upcoming public meetings that involve ASCLD and national forensic science issues.

The first is a hearing scheduled for tomorrow, March 28, before the U.S. House Judiciary committee, Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations. The hearing is entitled, "To examine the state of forensic science in the United States." The hearing is scheduled for 3:00pm eastern time, and witnesses include Matthew Gamette, one of your Directors on the ASCLD Board of Directors, and the Chairman of the Consortium of Forensic Science Organizations (CFSO). Matthew has been working with the Advocacy committee and our CFSO partners over the last several weeks to prepare for this testimony and I know he will represent us well. Among other witnesses called to testify are Dr. Victor Weedn (George Washington University, Past-President of AAFS), Dr. David Baldwin (National Security Technologies, LCC), and Ms. Sandra Guerra (University of Houston Law Center, Houston Forensic Science Center). The webpage for the hearing is: <https://judiciary.house.gov/hearing/examine-state-forensic-science-united-states/>



The second public meeting is a panel discussion at the 13th meeting of the National Commission on Forensic Science (NCFS). ASCLD was invited to participate in discussions about the impact of NCFS work products on the intersection of science and law, forward-looking issues such as infrastructure, equipment, and personnel needs in the forensic community, and the current and future priorities of ASCLD and the broader forensic science community. I will be participating in this panel discussion as the representative from ASCLD and I welcome your thoughts and opinions as I craft our presentation. As usual, the NCFS meeting will be streamed live, and the link will be found at <https://www.justice.gov/ncfs/term-2-meetings-8-15>.

Have a GREAT week.

Kindest regards,
Jeremy Triplett



Hotel Reservations and Symposium Information

44th Annual ASCLD Symposium, April 30 – May 4, 2017, Dallas, Texas

The theme for the 2017 symposium is "Continuous Improvement – Leading through Continuous Learning." ASCLD is interested in presentations that focus on innovative techniques to permit managers to mentor and inspire their employees as they strive to continuously improve their organizations. The key goal of 2017 ASCLD presentations is to provide crime lab leadership with actionable tools and transportable information that can be directly applied to improve their operation.

44th Annual ASCLD Symposium hotel room block for the 2017 Symposium is now available!

<http://www.ascldsymposium.com/>

Golf Tournament, May 1st, 2017

Stevens Park Golf Course –

1005 N Montclair Ave, Dallas, TX 75208

Join us for a round of golf with your colleagues and the symposium sponsors for a Best Ball tournament and a chance to win a prize! The shotgun start will be at 12:30pm, with a buffet lunch provided beforehand.

ASCLD will be assigning teams of 4 ahead of time to allow for networking and new opportunities to be presented for all participants.

You can sign up for the golf tournament through our registration system [here](#). You will need to complete a full registration to be signed up for the tournament. The registration cost of \$80/person includes 18 holes of golf, cart fees and lunch. Golf clubs can be rented for an additional charge at the course. Transportation to and from the course is not included.

See you there!



ASCLD Members: we are asking for you to send the following notice regarding a University Research and Forensic Lab collaborative workshop out to your University contacts:

Workshop - Arbinger - Developing and Implementing and Outward Mindset

Cameron Cozzens (Arbinger Institute) is conducting an 8 hour workshop on May 1 to assist leaders in forensic organizations facilitate change. From the authors of the international best-selling books Leadership and Self-Deception, The Anatomy of Peace, and The Outward Mindset comes the workshop that is helping government and corporate leaders dramatically transform their culture. In this workshop, The Arbinger Institute helps resolve the organizational problems—including weak individual performance, lack of accountability, ineffective leadership, poor teamwork, interpersonal conflict and functional silos—that plague many organizations, hurting their results. The root cause of most organizational problems is that employees often unknowingly work with an “inward mindset”—focused inwardly on their own, personal objectives. www.arbinger.com

Workshop - NIJ Research

Bridging the Gap Between Researchers and Practicing Forensic Scientists: The Need for Collaboration The “Forensic Science Research Incubator”

On Sunday, April 30, NIJ is conducting an 8 hour Workshop at the ASCLD Annual Meeting to bring together University Researchers and Forensic Lab Leaders to facilitate research. Grant funding opportunities will also be presented. This workshop is an excellent opportunities to meet face to face to share ideas and forge partnerships. This meeting will also provide an opportunity to learn about the ASCLD Forensic Research initiative. Please check out the specifics at:

<http://www.ascldsymposium.com/events-1/i546th2e508/Bridging-the-Gap-Between-Researchers-and-Practicing-Forensic-Scientists-The-Need-for-Collaboration>

The meeting general information and registration is: <http://www.ascldsymposium.com/> and consider attending.

Workshop NIJ Grant Managers

NIJ Programs for Forensic Laboratories

On Monday, May 1, NIJ is conducting a 4 hour Workshop at the ASCLD Annual Meeting specifically tailored to Grant Managers. This workshop will cover grant requirements and reporting, formula and competitive grants and include recommendations to write a successful competitive grant application.

Specifics for this workshop can be found at: <http://www.ascldsymposium.com/events-2/i54cmq0k133/NIJ-Programs-for-Forensic-Laboratories>



NIJ Forensic Science R&D Reports for ASCLD Crime Lab Minute Vol 9

Solicitation Deadlines Extended

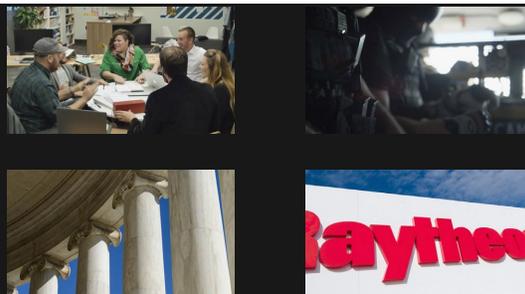
NIJ has extended the deadlines for two solicitations:

- [Research and Evaluation on Drugs and Crime](#) now will close on April 24, 2017.
- [Research and Evaluation in Safety, Health, and Wellness in the Criminal Justice System](#) now will close on May 8, 2017.

Apply now! Funding is available for:

- FY 2017 Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence-Inventory, Tracking, and Reporting Program (SAFE-ITR) Application deadline: April 28, 2017 [Download the solicitation \(pdf, 38 pages\)](#)

<https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/250472.pdf>



Case Studies ref Arbing Institute Symposia Workshop



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CRIME LABORATORY DIRECTORS
"Excellence through leadership in forensic science management"

[Criminalist II \(DNA\) – Grant](#), Broward County Sheriff's Office, Fort Lauderdale, FL, Expires: March 31, 2017

[Firearms Examiner](#), Oklahoma City Police Department, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, Expires: April 2, 2017

[Forensic Chemistry Supervisor \(Toxicology\)](#), Austin Texas Police Department, Austin Texas, Expires: May 15, 2017

[Crime Scene Analyst](#), Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, Golden, CO, Expires: April 21, 2017

[Chief Toxicologist](#), Cuyahoga County, Cleveland, OH, Expires: May 15, 2017

[Executive Director](#), Northeastern Illinois Regional Crime Laboratory, Vernon Hills, IL, Expires: April 30, 2017

[Forensic Scientist IV – Latent Print Examiner](#), City of Phoenix Police Department, Laboratory Services Bureau, Phoenix, AZ, Expires: April 1, 2017

[Criminalist](#), County of Los Angeles – Medical Examiner Coroner, Los Angeles, CA, Expires: June 9, 2017

[Forensic Analyst – Toxicology](#), Houston Forensic Science Center, Houston, TX, Expires: April 1, 2017

[Forensic Chemist](#), Miami Valley Regional Crime Laboratory, Dayton, OH, Expires: April 7, 2017

[Forensic Biologist](#), Georgia Bureau of Investigation, Decatur, Georgia, Expires: April 30, 2017

[Forensic DNA Analyst](#), Mytotyping Technologies (Division of Health Network Labs), State College, PA, Expires: April 17, 2017

[Physician Specialist](#), County of Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA, Expires: May 19, 2017

[Chief Forensic Laboratories](#), Los Angeles County – Medical Examiner- Coroner, Los Angeles, CA, Expires: May 17, 2017

[Forensic Chemist 2](#), ORAU, Ft. Gillem, GA & OCONUS, Expires: May 4, 2017

[Laboratory Manager/Theater Liaison](#), ORAU, Ft. Gillem, GA & OCONUS, Expires: May 4, 2017



Adapting Newborn Blood Testing Procedures to Forensic Toxicology

<https://nij.gov/topics/forensics/evidence/toxicology/Pages/adapting-newborn-blood-testing-procedures-to-forensic-toxicology.aspx>

Degraded Ignitable Liquids Database: An Applied Study

<https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/250468.pdf>

Statistical Methods for Combining Multivariate and Categorical Data in Postmortem Interval Estimation

<https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/250467.pdf>

Citrate Content of Bone: A potential Measure of Post Mortem Interval

A constant concern for forensic practitioners is the determination of the post-mortem interval (PMI) in questioned death cases. A number of methods have been tried to better determine PMI, but all have proven problematic. NIJ-supported researchers at the SUNY Brockport Research Foundation evaluated the citrate method for determining PMI based on a 2010 study that indicated citrate content in bone could be potentially useful in estimating PMI. The researchers intend to make the interface available free online.

Microspectrophotometry of Fibers:

Advances in Analysis and Interpretation

Microspectrophotometry is a standard forensic laboratory technique for the comparison of fibers, however, there are concerns about its discriminating power and significance in a field that is moving toward statistical interpretation of data. In this NIJ-supported project, researchers with the forensic laboratory Microtrace conducted an extensive review of microspectrophotometry to present investigators with a context for relating spectral differences to colorant concentrations in fibers and illustrate cases in which similar, but different, fiber populations could not be discriminated.

Massively Parallel Sequencing: Application to Forensics

<https://www.forensiccoe.org/Our-Impact/Advancing-Technology/Reports/Massively-Parallel-Sequencing-Application-to-Forensics>

Examining the Effects of Environmental Degradation on the Optical Properties of Manufactured Fibers of Natural Origin

<https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/249911.pdf>

Transition Metal Cluster Compounds for the Fluorescent Identification and Trace Detection of Substances of Abuse

<https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/250337.pdf>

Analytical Chemist I – Forensic Chemistry Unit,
Division of Forensic Science, WILMINGTON, Expires:
March 31, 2017



Simon Sinek: If You Don't Understand People, You Don't Understand Business

"We're not good at everything, we're not good by ourselves," says Simon Sinek at the 99% Conference. Our ability to build trust and relationships is the key to our survival as a race, and to thriving as ideamakers.

Forensic Science Policy and Management: An International Journal

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

ASCLD/RTI Backlog Series

Archival versions of the ASCLD/RTI Backlog Series can be found at the following links:

- [The Paradox of Backlog Reduction – How Doing Less Can Be Doing More](#)
- [Taking the First Steps Toward Backlog Reduction](#)
- [Managing Customer Expectations and Education](#)
- [How to Increase your Staff without Increasing Budget](#)
- [Efficiency Improvements](#)
- [Developing a Statewide Approach to Backlog Management](#)
- [Case Acceptance Policies and Guidelines](#)

ASCLD/RTI Rapid DNA Series

Archival versions of the ASCLD/RTI Rapid DNA Series can be found at the following links:

- [Rapid DNA: The QAS and NDIS](#)
- [Rapid DNA: Arizona DPS and Richland County, SC](#)
- [Rapid DNA: Booking Stations and CODIS](#)

National Commission on Forensic Science News
<https://www.justice.gov/nfsc/meetings>

Meetings of the National Commission on Forensic Science (NCFS) are held quarterly in Washington, DC. NCFS meetings are open to the public. Public registration for NCFS meetings is available approximately one month in advance of a meeting and can be found under the respective meeting link. NCFS meetings are also webcast.

The thirteenth meeting of the National Commission on Forensic Science will be held April 10-11, 2017 in Washington, DC.

If you would like to receive email updates as new information or new materials are added, please subscribe. ✉ Email updates

NFSTC News

NFSTC is now offering online proficiency testing in crime scene investigation to agencies across the globe. After the Fact has been used as the competency standard since 2011 and is a cost-effective training tool. Assessments are \$250 and available at www.csi-skills.com.

michelle.chernicoff@nfstc.org
<https://www.nfstc.org/>

Evidence Technology Magazine





Forensic Crime Lab Strategic Business Plan

We develop and write Strategic Business Plans for forensic crime labs. Here are the type of questions and challenges we can help answer and overcome:

- Multiple Crime Lab Consolidation
- Medical Examiner Office and Crime Lab Mergers
- Multi Agency Regional Partnerships
- New Lab Considerations; Equipment Planning, Operational Cost Planning, Workload Measurement, Staff Planning
- New Equipment Forecasting and Funding Justification
- Operational Cost Forecasting
- Long Term Budget Forecasting

We can, together, develop a Forensic Crime Lab Strategy Plan that will make your lab more efficient, work within your operational budget, and deliver flawless work.

<http://www.theinteractgroup.com/crime-laboratory-strategic-business-plan/>

FORESIGHT 20./20

The American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors (ASCLD) has received funding from the Laura and John Arnold Foundation to develop software that will transfer data from forensic Laboratory Information Management Systems (LIMS) to FORESIGHT, a business quantitative process tailored to forensic laboratories

The goal of the project, called FORESIGHT 20/20, will be to allow laboratories to easily upload business-relevant information from their individual LIMS to the FORESIGHT project, hosted at West Virginia University.

Foresight 20/20



Just Science Podcast Interviews

RTI International in partnership with the Forensic Technology Center of Excellence,



OSAC Promotes Hundreds of Forensic Science Standards, Guidelines, and Other Documents During 2017 OSAC Public Status Reports & Open Discussions

The [webcasts and PowerPoint presentations](#) are available for public viewing on the NIST OSAC website."

The [OSAC Registry](#) is a trusted repository of high-quality, science-based standards and guidelines for forensic sciences.

<https://www.nist.gov/topics/forensic-science/osac-newsletter-march-2017>

E30.01 Criminalistics

The following work items are underway:

[WK58027 - Standard Practice for Preserving Ignitable Liquids and Ignitable Liquid Residue Extracts from Fire Debris Samples \(link is external\)](#) is a work item revision to existing standard E2451-13

[WK58028 - Standard Guide for Forensic Examination of Non-Reactive Dyes in Textile Fibers by Thin-Layer Chromatography \(link is external\)](#) is a work item revision to existing standard E2227-13

New Approved Standards

[ASTM E2926 - 17 Standard Test Method for Forensic Comparison of Glass Using Micro X-ray Fluorescence \(μ-XRF\) Spectrometry \(link is external\)](#)

[ASTM E1588 - 17 Standard Practice for Gunshot Residue Analysis by Scanning Electron Microscopy/Energy Dispersive X-Ray Spectrometry \(link is external\)](#)

E30.12 Digital and Multimedia Evidence

The following work item is underway:

[WK58084 - Standard Practice for Computer Forensics \(link is external\)](#) is a work revision to existing standard ASTM E2763-10

Learn more about [ASTM E30 \(link is external\)](#).

OSAC Subcommittees



[Bode Cellmark Forensics](#) provides advanced forensic solutions offering crime labs ways to reduce their workloads and budgets.

a program of the National Institute of Justice, Department of Justice, is producing a podcast called "Just Science". The Just Science podcast is designed to reach a broad audience of forensic scientists and other professionals who collaborate with the forensic science community.

As part of the podcast series, RTI would like to interview any ASCLD members who would like to share interesting or unusual criminal cases, now closed or adjudicated, where forensic science was critical to the outcome of the case. Our goal is to provide the audience with a positive view of the importance of forensic science in criminal investigations. The timing of the cases is not important, although preference will be given to cases involving some personal experience and that can be the subject of an in-depth conversation. The audio only recording usually takes 40 to 60 minutes, depending on the content, and all disciplines are welcome. We would like to do the recordings during the ASCLD annual symposium in Dallas, Texas.

The available dates are Tuesday, May 2nd and Wednesday, May 3rd, and we can accommodate your schedule. Please e-mail Lauren Mangum from RTI International at lmangum@rti.org with a short overview of the case and methods used. This is a great way to disseminate your, or your crime laboratory's work to a wide audience, hopefully sparking conversations, new ideas, and inspiring others within the field to approach cases in alternative ways. You can change the position of the caption and set styles in the block's settings tab.

NEWS STORIES

[California's DNA database gets fewer hits due to Prop. 47](#)

KCRA Sacramento
California's DNA database is shrinking in size and that means law enforcement agencies are having a tough time accessing some key evidence for ...

[Toxicology backlog delaying drug overdose test results](#)

CBC.ca
Dr. Wes Schreiber, the medical director for the provincial toxicology centre, said the volume of testing increased 30 per cent in 2016, as illicit drug ...

[NatGeo to pay for DNA analysis in Brazos County cold case, create documentary](#)

Bryan-College Station Eagle
National Geographic Explorer has paid to analyze DNA found under the fingernails of a local woman brutally slain in 1981, helping the Brazos County ...

[Austin police hand over keys of troubled DNA lab to state](#)

MyStatesman.com
City officials plan to reopen the troubled Austin police DNA lab under an agreement in which the state will oversee the day-to-day operation of the ...

[Harris County Officially Opens New State Of The Art Institute Of Forensic Sciences](#)

Houston Public Media
The facility will serve both as a crime lab and as the medical examiner's ... opening of the new Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences (HCIFS).

Bode's newest offerings include:

[Sexual Assault Kit Backlog Reduction Program](#) streamlines processes to eliminate backlogs of untested sexual assault kits.

[Bode Buccal 2™](#) is uniquely designed to improve DNA databanking collecting and automate processing. The Bode Buccal 2 is a DIRECT COLLECTION SYSTEM that requires minimal training. There is NO Transfer Step Required.

[Independent Validation Services](#) are customized to meet your laboratory's needs. Validation services provide completely unbiased analysis on your equipment, chemistries, or process.

Featured Article:

His name was Wilmer Souder. A physicist at the National Bureau of Standards, now known as the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), Souder played an important role in the early days of forensic science. He helped send countless murderers, bootleggers, gangsters and thieves to prison, and he kept such a low profile partly out of concern for his and his family's safety. Perhaps as a result, he was not long remembered for his forensic work, and his influence on the developing field of forensic science was not as great as it might have been.

NIST Library just finished scanning Souder's nine notebooks and has made them available for anyone to view via the NIST Digital Archives:

<http://nistdigitalarchives.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/landingpage/collection/p16009coll67>

Bringing together experts from the forensic, research, legal, and law enforcement communities to strengthen forensic science and create a safer, more just society.
<https://www.nist.gov/topics/forensic-science>

Upcoming Events

- [International Forensic Science Error Management Symposium](#), July 24-28, 2017
- Technical Colloquium: Quantifying the Weight of Forensic Evidence, June 27-29, 2017



Establishment of an Office of Forensic Sciences and a Forensic Science Board Within the Department of Justice

Revision 2/14/17

http://thecfso.org/advocacy/20170214_CF_SO_OFS_Proposal_Rev.pdf

Formed in 2000, CFSO is an association of six forensic science professional organizations: American Academy of Forensic Sciences; American Society of Crime Lab Directors; International

[New California Assembly Bill would seek to improve the rape kit testing system.](#)

Kern Golden Empire
Tammi Noe, Crime Lab Director of the Kern Regional Crime Laboratory, says it's not uncommon for the crime lab to receive sexual assault kits from ...

[WV sexual assault kit tracker up for award.](#)

Huntington Herald Dispatch
"Half the kits that went out from the crime lab never came back," she said. "They were sent to the hospital and were unaccounted for. We suspected ...

Association for Identification; International Association of Forensic Nurses; National Association of Medical Examiners; and Society of Forensic Toxicologists - American Board of Forensic Toxicology.

These professional organizations together represent more than 21,000 forensic science professionals across the United States.

The mission of the CFSO is to speak with a single forensic science voice in matters of mutual interest to its member organizations, to influence public policy at the national level and to make a compelling case for greater federal funding for public crime laboratories and medical examiner offices. The primary focus of the CFSO is local, state and national policymakers, as well as the United States Congress.

CFSO Newsletter

Coming soon..... The Forensic Research Committee

American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors

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